



### **TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF ROCKWELL**

The Rockwell Board of Aldermen would like to explain the increase of taxes and garbage cost for the 2011-2012 budget year. Four workshops and a public hearing were held during the budget process. All workshops and public hearings are an open meeting. By State statute we must and did run the legal notification of the 2011-2012 budget public hearing in the Salisbury Post on June 3, 2011 and June 10, 2011 prior to the budget hearing held at the June Board meeting on June 13, 2011. During the work session the Town was faced with a short fall of almost \$100,000.00. This short fall was due in part to the de-valuation of property assessment by the County as well a drastic reduction in State Revenues. With the rising cost of running and providing services to our people, the Board had to make some tough decisions. The Board felt that a tax increase as well as a minimal charge for garbage collections was the only answer. We are a small town with only nine full time employees, downsizing was not an option. The only remaining options were to cut services or departments such as Police and Fire. Knowing this would not be acceptable to the Board or the safety of our citizens, we choose the lesser of the two evils. The cost for garbage pickup is approximately \$100,000.00 yearly. The charge of \$5.00 only offset 50% of that cost. The charges for garbage were to be added to your water bill in the August billing. By that time we had hoped to get notification to our Citizens. But due to an error on the City of Salisbury's system, they came out this month with no explanation for the charge. Although this was out of the Town's control, we would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. The Town of Rockwell is a great place to live and work. Let us all continue to "Work towards the future while remembering the Past".

Town of Rockwell Board of Aldermen